

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 17-20 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 remain pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that a system administration program is run to configure the list of allowed tasks. Basis for this amendment is found, for example, at page 6, lines 10-17 of the application as originally filed. Claims 17-20 have been amended to place them into proper form under U.S. practice. Basis for the amendments to claims 17-20 is found on page 8, lines 34-36 of the application as originally filed.

The Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on 28 February 2002 are accepted, is hereby acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 17-20 have been amended to recite a process performed by execution of computer-readable instructions in a computer program. This is considered statutory subject matter. For example, see MPEP § 2106(IV)(B)(1)(a), which states, in relevant part, "When a computer program is claimed in a process where the computer is executing the computer program's instructions, Office personnel should treat the claim as a process claim. See paragraph IV.B.2(b), below." Specifically, in the case of a process claim, the computer program need not be claimed in a tangible media, as is explained in MPEP §2106 (IV)(B)(2)(b), referenced above. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments to claims 17-20 is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 12-14, 16-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,689,708 (Regnier). This rejection, at least insofar as it applies to claims 12-14 and 16, and claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 17-18 and 20, as amended, is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested for the reasons which follow.

Regnier discloses a method for administering user access to application programs on a computer system. In the method of Regnier, a system administrator decides which users are allowed to employ certain applications to access system resources. See col. 6, lines 23-25 of Regnier. The administrator then produces profiles listing system resources by user and by application. See col. 6, lines 25-28.

Claim 1, as amended, is novel relative to Regnier since the system administration program produces the list of allowed tasks on the basis of the user database and the database of tasks. In Regnier, the list of allowed tasks is produced directly by the system administrator and not by a system administration program as in the present invention.

Claims 2, 4, and 7-8 all depend from claim 1 and are thus considered novel for at least the same reason as given above for claim 1. Claims 12-14 and 16 all require, "means for configuring the list of allowed tasks on the basis of the user database and the database of tasks" and thus are considered novel for at least the same reason as given above for claim 1, since Regnier does not disclose a computer system including such a means. Claims 17-20 require the step of "configuring the list of allowed tasks on the basis of the user database and the database of tasks" and are thus considered to be novel over Regnier for at least the same reason as given above for claim 1.

Accordingly, favorable consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 12-14, 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,689,708 (Regnier), is requested.

Claims 3, 5, 9-11, 15 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Regnier. This rejection, at least insofar as it applies to claim 15, and claims 3, 5, 9-11 and 19, as amended, is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested for the reasons which follow.

Regnier relates to a resource management system that provides control of system resources, and has a server portion, profiles, a profile generator located in the server, and a client portion profile located within each client. See col. 6, lines 11-16 of Regnier. Initially, the network or system administrator decides which users are allowed to employ which applications to access the system resources. The administrator then produces profiles listing system resources by user and by application. See col. 6, lines 23-28 of Regnier. A set of profiles may constitute an ordinary table in a database. See col. 8, lines 12-14 of Regnier. Each row of the database table lists a user or predefined group of users, the name of a particular application program, a resource potentially used by that program, a value showing a status of that resource for that particular user when executing that particular application, and a change status for the value. See col. 8, lines 14-19 of Regnier.

The set of rows which name one particular user, forms a profile for that user. See col. 8, lines 28-32 of Regnier. When a particular user signs on at one of a number of client terminals, the profile associated with that user is selected and transmitted to the proper client terminal. See col. 6, lines 39-41 of Regnier. When the user selects an application, the resource manager client module determines whether or not that application program complies with the resource-management system. See col. 6, lines 51-53 of Regnier.

The present invention differs from Regnier in that Regnier does not disclose the provision of a user database and a database of tasks, nor does Regnier disclose a system administration program to configure a user-specific list of allowed tasks on the basis of the user database and the database of tasks. Instead, in Regnier a network or system administrator decides which users are allowed to employ which applications and the administrator, rather than a system administration program, produces profiles listing system resources by user and by application. See col. 6, lines 23-28 of Regnier.

One problem associated with the system of Regnier is that the system of Regnier does not scale well when used on computer systems having a large number of different users and different access rights for different users. The present invention solves this problem by providing a relatively efficient method of allocating a detailed set of applications to individual members of any group of potential users. This effect is achieved because the user database and the database of tasks are relatively simple to maintain, as compared to the user database of Regnier, and because the detailed configuration of user-specific lists of allowed tasks is accomplished, in the present invention, by a system administration program, rather than by the network or system administrator.

Therefore, since Regnier completely lacks several features of claims 1-20, as discussed above, Regnier is insufficient, taken alone, to support a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. Accordingly, favorable consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 5, 9-11, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Regnier, is requested.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over a combination of Regnier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,177 (Salmimaa). This

rejection, at least insofar as it applies to claim 6, as amended, is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested for the reasons which follow.

Salmimaa relates to a technique allowing mobile terminals to more efficiently represent a large number of icons on a small display in a manner that is tailored to a particular user's needs. See col. 2, lines 9-12 of Salmimaa. Icons in a context bar are organized according to the degree to which they match one or more context values contained in a user's profile, such that icons that best match with the user's profile are shown in a reduced width format. See col. 2, lines 33-38 of Salmimaa. In one embodiment, a user can modify context values contained in a storage area using an input device associated with a display. See col. 6, lines 32-34 of Salmimaa.

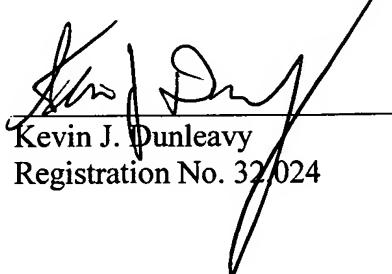
The skilled person seeking to modify Regnier to arrive at the present invention, would not consult Salmimaa, as it does not relate to selectively allowing users to run tasks on a computer system. Instead, Salmimaa relates to a system for configuring the display of icons on a small screen of a mobile terminal. Thus, Salmimaa is not in the same technical field as Regnier. Moreover, even if the skilled person were to consult Salmimaa, the skilled person would find no disclosure of the features of a database of tasks or a system administration program to configure a user-specific list of allowed tasks on the basis of a user database and the database of tasks. Instead, Salmimaa discloses only that a user can manually configure his or her user profile. See col. 6, lines 32-34 of Salmimaa. Moreover, the manual configuration of the user profile of Salmimaa only results in a different display of icons for each user, but does not determine allowed tasks for a particular user.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, claims 1-20 of the present application are considered to be patentable over Regnier in view of Salmimaa. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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